



GROUP 2

Second Language

Language B is a second language programme for students who have had previous experience of learning the language. In most cases, students will have studied their chosen language at IGCSE level (or equivalent) immediately prior to the beginning of their IB course.

Ab Initio (Standard Level Only) is a second language programme for students who have no previous second language experience or who wish to study a new language 'from scratch' in the Senior School.

Students may study one language in Group 1 and one in Group 2 **or** two different languages in Group 1. The last option leads to a **Bilingual Diploma**.



The Group Objectives

Social Objectives

Students should be able to:

- obtain information from written and oral sources
- communicate with other speakers of the foreign language both formally and informally
- express views and opinions on issues of general interest

Academic Objectives

Students should be able to:

- demonstrate accuracy in their use of the spoken and written language
- demonstrate understanding of both the spoken and written language
- enter into discussions and debates and defend opinions

Cultural Objectives

Students should be able to:

- demonstrate, through the study of a variety of texts and through social interaction, an awareness and appreciation of the different perspectives of people from other cultures.

Why are IB Languages valuable for higher education?

The IB foreign language programme is a challenging course which is highly valued by institutions of Higher Education for its intellectual stimulation and sound linguistic base for further study, work and leisure.

Many university courses in virtually every conceivable discipline can now be combined with a foreign language element. Those students who have followed a broad programme in their education and who are able to communicate effectively in a number of foreign languages are essential personnel in many branches of industry and commerce, in research and the academic world and, perhaps especially, in the travel and tourism industries.

SECOND LANGUAGE

Language B

(Mandarin, French, Japanese, Spanish)



WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF THE COURSE?

The aims of the IB course are to develop the ability to communicate accurately and effectively in both speech and writing in a variety of contexts. The course provides students an awareness into the culture of the countries where the language is spoken, and encourages students to see language learning as an integral part of the modern world, either in a social or recreational context or as an essential tool for the world of work.

WHO IS THE COURSE SUITABLE FOR?

The Higher Level course is suitable for those students who have been very successful at IGCSE level (or the equivalent) and who are happy to pursue their second language education to a much more sophisticated level. Higher level is both challenging and rewarding for those students who attain a B grade or above at IGCSE, and who may wish to pursue their language studies at University.

The Standard Level course follows the same course outline as the Higher Level, but with reduced content. Students need to have completed a IGCSE level course (or equivalent) in their chosen language to a Grade C or above and should feel happy to continue improving their foreign language skills beyond the everyday approach of the IGCSE. The Standard Level group may be taught separately from the Higher Level.

At both Standard and Higher level there is focus on the use of language and language manipulation skills. Students who have found their IGCSE language very challenging, or who wish to broaden their languages having achieved highly at IGCSE should consider Ab Initio as the IB option.

WHAT TOPICS WILL BE STUDIED?

The course consists of five topics, three of which are core topics and are obligatory: social relationships, communication and media, and global issues. In addition two optional topics can be chosen by the teacher to be studied from a list of the following: cultural diversity, customs and traditions, health, leisure, science and technology. Higher students will study the same topics as standard as well as two literature texts.

Students will engage frequently in oral and listening activities throughout the course with particular emphasis on the discussion of issues arising from the three themes. Written work will be of a varied nature and will, for example, include letters, imagined conversations, reports, discursive essays and for higher level creative writing.



HOW WILL STUDENTS BE ASSESSED?

SL assessment component	Weighting
<p>External assessment</p> <p>Paper 1 (1 hour 30 minutes): Receptive skills Text-handling exercises on 4 written texts from the Core.</p> <p>Paper 2 (1 hour 30 minutes): Written productive skills One writing exercise from a choice of five, based on the Options.</p> <p>Written assignment: Receptive and written productive skills Inter-textual reading of three sources followed by a written exercise of 300-400 words and a 100-word rationale, based on the Core.</p>	<p>70%</p> <p>25%</p> <p>25%</p> <p>20%</p>
<p>Internal assessment oral: Interactive skills This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB towards the end of the course.</p> <p>Individual oral Based on the Options. 15 minute preparation time and a 10 minute presentation and discussion with teacher.</p> <p>Interactive oral activities Based on the Core. Three classroom activities are assessed by the teacher; the moderation factor of the Individual oral is applied to the mark submitted by the teacher for assessment.</p>	<p>30%</p> <p>20%</p> <p>10%</p>
HL assessment component	Weighting
<p>External assessment</p> <p>Paper 1 (1 hour 30 minutes): Receptive skills Text-handling exercises on 5 written texts from the Core.</p> <p>Paper 2 (1 hour 30 minutes): Written productive skills Two compulsory writing exercises - Section A: One task of 250-400 words, based on the Options, to be selected from a choice of five. - Section B: 150-200 word personal response to a stimulus text (e.g. statement or article), based on the Core.</p> <p>Written assignment: Receptive and written productive skills Creative writing of 500-600 words, with a 100-word rationale, based on one of the literary texts studied.</p>	<p>70%</p> <p>25%</p> <p>25%</p> <p>20%</p>
<p>Internal assessment oral: Interactive skills This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB towards the end of the course.</p> <p>Individual oral Based on the Options. 15 minute preparation time and a 10 minute presentation and discussion with teacher.</p> <p>Interactive oral activities Based on the Core. Three classroom activities are assessed by the teacher; the moderation factor of the Individual oral is applied to the mark submitted by the teacher for assessment.</p>	<p>30%</p> <p>20%</p> <p>10%</p>

SECOND LANGUAGE

Language Ab Initio (Standard Level)

(Currently offered in Italian and Japanese, different languages maybe available)

The Ab Initio programme is a second language learning programme designed to be studied over 2 years at standard level by students who have no previous experience of learning the target language. Currently, the following languages are offered at Ab Initio: Japanese and Italian. It is therefore designed to meet the needs of those IB students who have had no opportunity for foreign language study in their earlier education and therefore are unable to fulfil IB diploma requirements for Group 2.



It is an ideal programme for those students wishing to diversify their already proven linguistic skills and achieve a high level of proficiency in a new language. It can also be tailored to meet the needs of those who would find the depth of a continuation of their GCSE course too challenging and difficult.

Students may choose to study a language at this level if they have studied it for a maximum.

WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF THE COURSE?

- develop students' ability to communicate in speech and in writing in order to enable them to deal adequately with familiar and practical needs
- introduce students to the culture of the country /countries where the language is spoken, through the study of the target language
- provide students with a foundation for further study of the target language
- provide enjoyment and intellectual stimulation
- encourage positive attitudes to the learning of other languages and to their speakers and countries

WHO IS THE COURSE SUITABLE FOR?

The course is suitable for those who have had little or no opportunity for second language study in their previous education and are therefore unable to fulfill IB Diploma requirements for Group 2.

WHAT TOPICS WILL BE STUDIED?

Having followed the Ab Initio language programme, students will be expected to demonstrate, through the use of authentic material, the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in everyday situations.

As a standard level subject, students should be aware that the level of work and commitment involved in attaining a high score is equal to that demanded by other standard subjects.

HOW WILL STUDENTS BE ASSESSED?

External assessment SL

Paper 1

Receptive skills

1 hour: questions on four texts

Written assignment

Receptive and written productive skills

200–300 words: guided writing

Paper 2

Written productive skills

1 hour 30 minutes: two short written responses

Internal assessment SL

Individual interview

Interactive skills

12–15 minutes: individual oral presentation followed by questions and interview